

[illegible]

Sub
C1

- . A system according to claim 1, wherein said entity com
 robe.
 . A system according to claim 1, wherein said multiplexe
 ub.
 . A system according to claim 1, wherein said multiplexe
 media access unit.
 . A system according to claim 1, wherein said switches ar
 control signals for implementing said arbitration scheme.
 . A system according to claim 5, wherein said multiplexer
 olled by said control signals.

Sub A² → 7. A system according to claim 1, wherein said information comprises switch port
2 activity information, and said switches are configured to permit user selection of particu-
3 lar switch port activity information to be supplied to the entity via the multiplexer.

Sub C17 8. A system according to claim 1, further comprising program processes executed by
2 said switches for carrying out said arbitration scheme.

Sub A³ 9. A system for use in gathering information that may be useful to network man-
2 agement, said system comprising:
3 a plurality of network switches configured in a stacked configuration, each re-
4 spective switch including a respective port for receiving switch activity-related informa-
5 tion from other ports of the respective switch, the switches providing respective switch
6 activity-related information to a single remote monitoring probe, one respective port of
7 one of said switches being connected to another respective port of another of said
8 switches, and said another respective port being connected to said single remote monitor-
9 ing probe, the respective activity-related information of said one switch being provided to
10 said single remote monitoring probe via a connection dedicated solely to transmission of
11 said respective activity-related information.

1 11. A system according to claim 9, wherein a third respective port of a third switch is
2 connected to said one respective port via another connection, said another connection
3 being solely for transmission of respective activity-related information of said third
4 switch to said one switch.